Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05 OMB-01 DHA-02 IO-13 /088 W ------251519Z 038182 /44

P R 251230Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9760
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

UNCLAS BRASILIA 0652

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PFOR, BR

SUBJECT: BRAZILIAN REACTION TO MONDALE TRIP AND PRESIDENT'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS

REF: BRASILIA 0612 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY, JORNAL DO BRASIL JANUARY 24 HEADLINED AP SPECULATIVE ANALYSIS NOTING THAT MONDALE DISCUSSIONS WITH FRG LEADERSHIP RE NON-PROLIFERATION WILL LEAD TO NEW COURSE IN USG-GOB RELATIONS. ARTICLE ALLEGES FAILURE OF USG AND GOB TO CONSULT FIRST MEANS THAT U.S. HAS "FROZEN" BILATERALS CONSULTATIVE LINK FORGED BY KISSINGER AND SILVEIRA LAST FEBRUARY. IN CONTRAST, FOLHA DE SAO PAULO HEADLINES FRG DENIAL THAT FRG-GOB ACCORD IS ON MONDALE-SCHMIDT AGENDA. IN FURTHER REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS, FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA HAS CLAIMED NEXT STEP IN USG-GOB CONSULTATIVE PROCESS IS UP TO USG, AND THAT HE HAS NO INDICATION FROM SECRETARY VANCE REGARDING BILATERAL AS SCHEDULED MOU FOR BRASILIA IN MARCH. ON POSITIVE SIDE SILVEIRA AGAIN COMPLIMENTED PRESIDENT'S VIEWS ON NUCLEAR ARMS LIMITATION, AND FOUND POSITIVE PER-UNCLASSIFIED

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SPECTIVE ON NORTH-SOUTH CONFRONTATION IN PRESIDENT'S WORDS ON HUMAN RIGHTS. END SUMMARY.

2. JANUARY 24 JORNAL DO BRASIL, HEADLINING "MONDALE VISIT IGNORES SILVEIRA-KISSINGER AGREEMENT," REPORTED EXTENSIVELY ON AP NEWS ANALYSIS BY ARY MOLEON, ALLEGEDLY BASED ON USG SOURCES, WHICH CLAIMED PRESIDENT CARTER HAS "FROZEN" THE KISSINGER-

SILVEIRA MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) SIGNED LAST FEBRUARY BY SENDING VP MONDALE TO FRG TO SEEK RENOGOTIATION OF THE FRG-GOB NUCLEAR ACCORD. JORNAL ADDED THAT MOU WAS PUT ASIDE MOMENT VICE PRESIDENT LEFT FOR EUROPE WITH NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION ON HIS AGENDA. ARTICLE ALLEGED THAT MONDALE'S MISSION WAS A "SUMMARY" ACTION WHICH ELIMINATED ANY IDEA OF CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE TOW STATES. AP ADDED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S POSI-TION ON PROLIFERATION HAD BEEN DESCRIBED BY USG SOURCE AS NOT ONLY MORAL, BUT ALSO ONE THAT HE HAD ARRIVED AT ONLY AFTER LONG STUDY. ARTICLE IN JB NOTED THAT CHANCELOR SCHMIDT HAS SAID HE WOULD HOLD DETAILED DISCUSSIONS WITH VICE PRESIDENT ABOUT NUCLEAR PRO-LIFERATION, AND THAT CHANCELOR HAS INDICATED FRG WILL ENTER CONVERSATION AWARE OF HAVING FULFILLED ALL ITS OBLIGATIONS WITH RESPECT TO NON-PROLIFERATION. CHANCELOR REPORTEDLY RECOGNIZED THAT "THEY WILL DEAL WITH NEW PROBLMS THAT IN THE PAST APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN RESOLVED DEFINITIVELY." (COMMENT: IN THIS CONTEXT THOSE "NEW PROBLEMS" ARE INTERPRETED HERE AS RELATED TO FRG-GOB NUCLEAR ACCORD END COMMENT.)

3. IN CONTRAST TO JORNAL, JANUARY 24 FOLHA DE SAO PAULO HEADLINED THAT THE FRG HAS REJECTED U.S. PRESSURES, QUOTING FRG FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN WILFRED BONSE IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH NEWSPAPER AS SAYING, "I CAN GUARANTEE THAT CHANCELOR HELMUT SCHMIDT AND VICE PRESIDENT WALTER MONDALE ARE NOT GOING TO DEAL WITH NUCLEAR ACCORD BETWEEN GERMANY AND BRAZIL. THE SUBJECT WAS NOT EVEN INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA."

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4. IN FURTHER DEMONSTRATIONS OF BRAZILIAN CONCERN APPEAR-ING IN PRESS OVER WEEKEND, FOREIGN MINISTER MADE ADDITIONAL COMMENTS TO PRESS ABOUT PRESIDENT'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS AND COURSE OF USG-GOB FUTURE RELATIONS (REFTEL). SILVEIRA TOLD PRESS JANUARY 21 THAT CONTINUATION OF GOOD RELATIONS DEPENDS MORE ON THE AMERICANS THAN ON BRAZIL. FOREIGN MINISTER NOTED THAT NEXT CONSULTATION UNDER MOU WAS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 1977 IN BRASILA BUT THAT THERE WAS NO INDICATION THAT SECRETARY VANCE HAD FOCUSSED UPON THE SUBJECT. SILVEIRA ALSO INDICATED HE DID NOT THINK U.S. ASSIGNMENT OF PRIORITY TO ITS RELATIONS WITH CANADA AND MEXICO AND PROBABLE EARLY MEETINGS BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND TRUDEAU AND LOPEZ PORTILLO MEANT A RADICAL CHANGE IN U.S. DIPLOMACY IN THE HEMISPHERE. HE CONCLUDED HOWEVER, THAT U.S. BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH BRAZIL "DEPENDS ON WHAT THEY (USG) DO."

5. ON MORE POSITIVE SIDE, FOREIGN MINISTER AGAIN (REFTEL)
COMPLIMENTED PRESIDENT CARTER'S COMMENTS IN INAUGURAL ADDRESS

SAYING PRESIDENT HAD "CREATED A NEW CONSCIOUSNESS IN HIS OWN PEOPLE, IN THE NUCLEAR COUNTRIES AND GOVERNMENTS OF THE WORLD...THAT NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT MUST BE PURSUED WITH TENACITY. WE ARE ALSO IN FAVOR OF THIS. I REITERATE THAT ON THIS POINT, HE WILL HAVE ALL OUR SUPPORT."

6. ASKED ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS, FOREIGN MINISTER ADDED NEW TWIST TO HIS POSITION THAT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAD OTHER PREOCCUPATIONS BESIDES HUMAN RIGHTS (REFTEL). SILVEIRA SAID NEW UNDERSTANDING OF HUMAN RIGHTS WILL BE A POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE AND BE A POINT OF REFLECTION FOR DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. HUMAN RIGHTS, ACCORDING TO SILVEIRA, MUST ENCOMPASS ALL THE PRINCIPLES BASIC TO IMPROVING STANDARDS OF LIVING, NOT JUST LIMIT THE POLITICS OF REPRESSIVE REGIMES. THUS UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES NEED ACCESS TO MODERN MEANS TO RAISE STANDARD OF LIVING IN THEIR COUNTRIES. FOREIGN MINISTER BELIEVED UNCLASSIFIED

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PRESIDENT CARTER PERCEIVED PROBLEM AND THOUGHT NEW PRESIDENT WOULD HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT ON RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND LDCS.

7. INDICATIVE OF CONTINUING BRAZILIAN PRE-OCCUPATION WITH WASHINGTON'S VIEW OF FUTURE OF GOB-USG RELATIONS WAS SHORT ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED OVER WEEKEND IN POLITICAL MISCELLANY COLUMN IN JORNAL DE BRASILIA. ARTICLE CLAIMED THAT BRAZILIAN DIPLOMATS WERE WAITING EXPECTANTLY FOR SOME SIGN FROM PRESIDENT CARTER AS THE "FIRST STEP" TOWARD AN UNDERSTANDING." ARTICLE CONTINUED THAT SIGNAL COULD APPEAR THROUGH ONE OF FOUR MEDIUMS: (1) FROM ASST. SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ARA TO BRAZILIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, (2) FROM SECRETARY VANCE THROUGH AN EXCHANGE OF MESSAGES WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA OR THROUGH AN INITIAL CONTACT WITH AMBASSADOR PINHEIRO, (3) THROUGH AN EFFORT BY VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE TOWARD POLITICAL ACCOMODATION WITH BRAZIL IN CONNECTION WITH HIS MISSION TO THE FRG (4) THROUGH A MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO PRESIDENT GEISEL, IN REPLY TO THE LATTER'S CONGRATULATIONS ON HIS INAUGURAL. CRIMMINS

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Margaret P. Grafeld	Declassified/Released	US Department of State	EO Systematic Review	22 May 2009

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a **Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED**

Concepts: GOVRNMENT REACTIONS, PRESIDENT ELECT

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 25-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note: Disposition Action: n/a Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Comment:

Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BRASIL00652
Document Source: 10.00

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a

Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Film Number: D770026-1122 Format: TEL From: BRASILIA

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Expiration:

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770122/aaaaatan.tel

Line Count: 161 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: ea7e9ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION ARA

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: n/a Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 77 BRASILIA 612

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 28-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am

Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3515495 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: BRAZILIAN REACTION TO MONDALE TRIP AND PRESIDENT'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS

TAGS: PFOR, BR, (CARTER, JIMMY)

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ea7e9ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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